UPPER KUSKOKWIM ALPHABET

a — dał "crane"

This vowel is similar to the English vowel in "hat", "sat", and "mat". Low front close unrounded vocoid.

ch — ts'och "plate"

chon "rain"

Similar to the ch in "church". Voiceless alveopalatal aspirated grooved affricate.

ch' — łech'a "dog"

Pronounced like ch with the glottis opening and closing simultaneously. (See "glottal stop", page 76.) Voiceless alveopalatal glottalized grooved affricate.

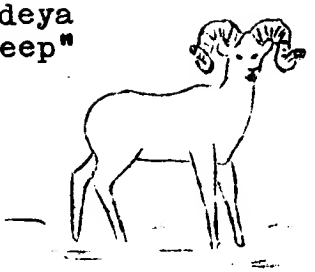
d — dał "crane"

Similar to the d in "dog" or "doll". Voiceless unaspirated alveolar stop.

dl — dlot' "water plants"

Similar to the ttle in "bottle" or "battle". Voiceless alveolar lateral affricate.

dr drodeya "sheep"

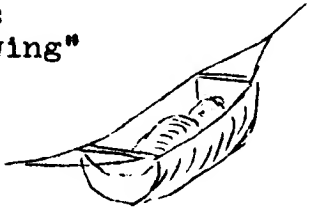


Similar to the dr in "drop" (but representing one sound rather than a combination of two consonants as in English.) Voiceless alveolar grooved affricate.

dz dzedza "bird"

Similar to the ds in "buds" (but representing one sound rather than a combination of two consonants.) Voiceless alveolar affricate.

e mes "swing"

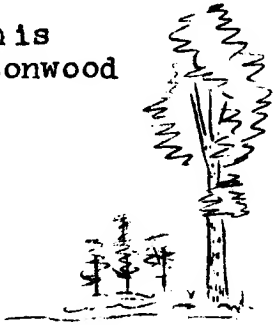


Similar to the e in "he", "me", and "be". High front close unrounded vocoid.

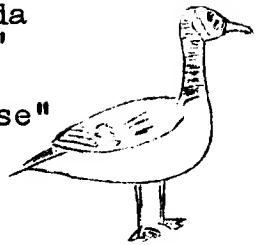
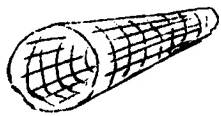
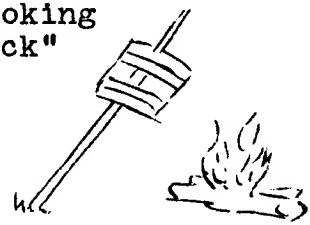
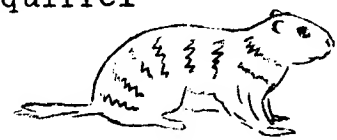
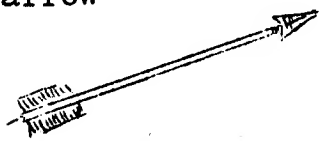
g guga' "baby"

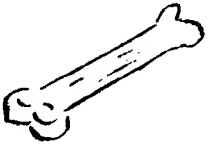
Similar to the g in "go" and "bag". Voiced velar stop.

gh t'ighis "cottonwood tree"



Made in the position of a g but allowing the air to escape from the larynx as in v and z. Voiced velar fricative.

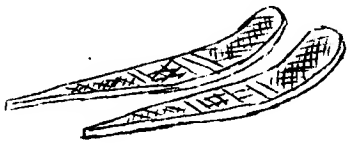
h	huh "canada goose" ha "grease" 	Made in the position of the k but allowing the air to escape from the lungs as in f and s. Voiceless velar fricative.
i	is "fish trap" 	Pronounced between the i in "sit" and the a in "above". High front open unrounded vocoid to mid-central close unrounded vocoid.
j	jił "cooking stick" 	Similar to the j in "job". Voiceless aspirated alveopalatal affricate.
k	konsa "ground squirrel" 	Pronounced like the k in "kill". Voiceless velar stop.
k'	k'o' "arrow" 	Pronounced like the k but with the glottis opening and closing simultaneously. Voiceless glottalized velar stop.

l	ḷilo' "hand"	Pronounced like the l in "lick". Voiced lateral fricative.
ɬ	ɬiɬ "fish hook"	Resembles the l in "cleave". Voiceless lateral fricative.
m	min "lake"	Pronounced like the m in "man". Voiced bilabial nasal.
n	nune "porcupine"	Pronounced like the n in "no". Voiced alveolar nasal.
n̥	ts'in̥ "bone" 	Pronounced in the same position as the n but without moving the vocal cords. When pronounced by itself there is no sound except that of air escaping through the nose. Voiceless alveolar nasal.

n' k'un' "fish eggs"

Pronounced like an n but cut off by closing the glottis. Voiced alveolar glottalized nasal.

o osh "snowshoes"

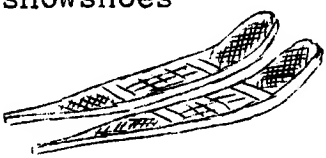


Similar to the o in "jot".or "pot". Low back rounded vocoid.

s suje "marten"

Pronounced like the s in "saw". Voiceless alveolar grooved fricative.

sh osh "snowshoes"

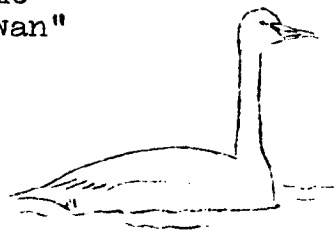


Pronounced like the sh in "sheep". Voiceless alveo-palatal grooved fricative.

sr sruh "robin"

Sounds like the s and r pronounced together similar to the shr in "shrew" (but representing one sound rather than a combination of two consonants as in English.) Voiceless alveolar retroflexed fricative.

t tomo
"swan"

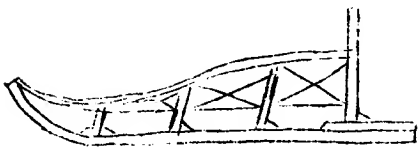


Pronounced like the t in "toy" and "to". Voiceless alveolar aspirated stop.

t' ch'it'on'
"leaf"

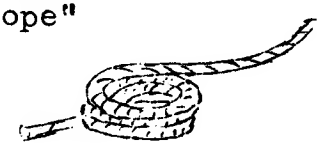
Pronouced like the t but with the glottis opening and closing simultaneously. Voiceless alveolar glottalized stop.

tł hwtł
"sled"



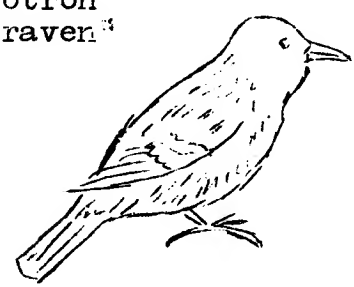
Sounds like t and ł pronounced together. No comparable sound in English. Voiceless alveolar affricate, lateral.

tł' tł'uł
"rope"



Pronounced like the tł with the glottis opening and closing simultaneously. No comparable sound in English. Voiceless alveolar glottalized lateral affricate.

tr dotron'
"raven"



Sounds like t and r pronounced at the same time. Similar to the tr in "tree". Voiceless alveolar retroflexed grooved affricate.

tr' tr'esh
"boat"

Sounds like t and r pronounced at the same time with the glottis opening and closing simultaneously. Voiceless alveolar retroflexed grooved affricate.

ts tso'
"beaver"

Sounds like t and s pronounced at the same time, similar to the ts in "hats" (but representing one sound rather than a combination of two consonants as in English.) Voiceless alveolar grooved affricate.

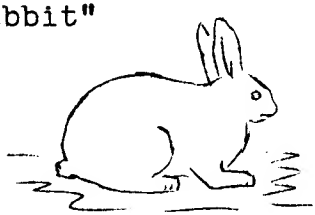
ts' ts'in
"bone"

Sounds like t and s pronounced together with the glottis opening and closing simultaneously. No comparable sound in English. Voiceless alveolar glottalized grooved affricate.

u tu
"water"

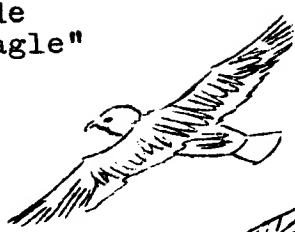
Similar to the u in "flu". High back close rounded vocoid.

w gwh
"rabbit"



Similar to the u in "put" and the oo in "foot". High central close rounded vocoid.

y yode "eagle"



Pronounced like the y in "yes". High front close unrounded nonsyllabic vocoid.

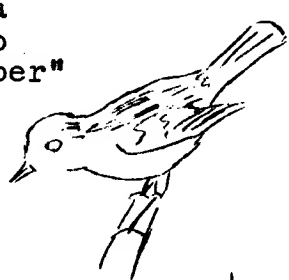
y' k'wy' "willow"

Pronounced like y but cut off by closing the glottis. High front close unrounded glottalized nonsyllabic vocoid.

z ch'izis "hide, skin"

Pronounced like the z in "zoo". Voiced alveolar grooved fricative.

zr jezra "camp robber"



Sounds like z and r pronounced at the same time. No comparable sound in English. Voiced alveolar retroflexed grooved fricative.

' tso' "beaver"

Made by closing the glottis in the throat. This is what takes place between the two syllables in "oh-oh". Glottal stop.

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